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up on the floor and say a few words, but they're the ones that really get me prepared and get us all prepared when we're facing those tough, tough issues; and I've had outstanding people working for me, most recently Cheryl, John, Greg, Scott Stempson who loved it so much here he decided to run for it, Pat Hannan, all the different people that worked so hard to keep me in office so I want to thank you all and thanks a lot for the ambulance. My kids will love it. (Applause)

PRESIDENT PRAK: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Twenty years ago Don Wesely surprised the political pundits by winning an election over a Nebraska football legend, Tom "Train Wreck" Novak. And he showed up for the session 23 years of age, tall and skinny, bright red hair. He looked like a safety match walking upright (laughter) and it's been 20 years since he's here and it's time to sort of take stock of Don's career. One Nebraskan wrote this about Don, "Dear Viper Head, I saw you on TV yesterday proclaiming that you would not run for reelection. I want to tell you don't let the door hit you in the ass on the way out. Nebraska state government will certainly be better off without you. The only difference between you and the bigoted black Chambers is the color of your skin." Well, from this we may conclude that Don is not popular with racist boneheads. (Applause) He also has been the nemesis to those who want to turn a blind eye on the sick and on the homeless and on the poor. And he has galled some when he fought to build accountability into tax breaks that we gave to people who were downsizing at the same time we were giving them tax breaks for creating jobs. But that happens. You gall people, you make people angry when you stand up and fight. And it happens even more so if you are good at it. And Don Wesely has been very good at that. He leaves us having passed over 300 bills and accumulating so many plaques from grateful organizations that he could shingle a duplex with them if he needed to. Now there will be some changes when Don leaves us. Joanne Pepperl says that with the reduced workload in her office she'll have to let at least one bill drafter go, maybe two. But there is a compensating factor. Harland does indicate that once we clean out Don's office every senator will get three more file cabinets than what we now have. Don, with your relentless pursuit of a fairer distribution of opportunity and a